Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

Crop Report

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Crop Report for April 27, 2008

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop, hay and pasture land improved during the past week, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture's weekly crop report.

Areas with surplus topsoil moisture are located primarily in the northern regions. Areas in the southern grainbelt extending into the central regions of the province, reported short and very short topsoil moisture.

Provincially, one per cent of the 2008 crop is planted. While a number of individual rural municipalities reported seeding of up to 20 per cent or more, many areas haven't started seeding due to wet and/or cold field conditions. This is essentially unchanged from the previous week as seeding was delayed because of the spring storm and additional snowfall.

Crop reporters indicated that pasture conditions are generally fair to very poor in many areas of the province, due to lack of heat and moisture. Northern pastures are largely covered in snow. Many southern areas and some central areas have inadequate livestock water supplies.

Poor weather conditions delayed fieldwork over the past week.

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1 Year Ago

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop, hay and pasture land were generally adequate to surplus across the province; however there were areas of short and very short topsoil moisture across the southern grainbelt.

Two per cent of the 2007 crop was planted.

Pastures were reported in good to excellent condition by almost half of the reporters.

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CANADA ~ SASKATCHEWAN
Crop Insurance

South eastern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 1, 2, & 3as-east)

The southeast was cool and windy during the past week, with freezing overnight temperatures. An average of 4 mm of precipitation was reported, ranging from an average low of 3 mm reported in Crop District (CD) 1, to an average high of 7 mm reported in CD 3ase.

Seeding has begun in many areas of the southeast, though very little happened this past week. A total of 2% of the 2008 crop is in. Some concern was expressed about the effect of the recent frosts on early-seeded crops. There were some suggestions of cropping changes to less wheat and more canola and barley.

South eastern crop reporters rate 59% of the crop land and 36% of the hay and pasture land as having adequate topsoil moisture. This compares with ratings of 53% for crop land and 38% for hay and pasture land last week. Thirty-five per cent of the crop land and 53% of the hay and pasture land are rated as having short topsoil moisture.

Pasture conditions are generally fair to very poor in the southeast. Lack of moisture and warm weather are the holdbacks to pasture development. Winter hay supplies are running low. Livestock water supplies are generally adequate though some areas are rated inadequate.

Concerns were expressed about crop inputs being in short supply or being very expensive or both. Farmers were fixing fences, picking rocks and putting down chemicals.

South western Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 3as-west, 3an, 3b, & 4)

Many areas in the southwest were cool and windy this past week. An average of 6 mm of precipitation was reported, ranging from an average low of 4 mm reported in CDs 3asw and 3bs, to an average high of 16 mm reported in CD 4b.

Spring seeding has begun in a number of areas in the southwest with a total of 4% seeded in the region. This is essentially unchanged from last week. Some farms have up to 25% of their crop planted. Concern was expressed about the cold weather harming early crops, especially ones that had already sprouted. Some farmers are considering more summerfallow unless some moisture is received.

Topsoil moisture conditions are rated as adequate for 36% of the crop land and 21% of the hay and pasture land, compared with last week's estimates of 17% and 14% respectively. One-third of the crop land and 41% of the hay and pasture land is rated as having poor topsoil moisture. Rain is needed in most areas to ensure a good start to crops and grass.

The majority of the pastures are rated in fair to very poor condition in the southwest. Many areas report an inadequate supply of livestock water. Some livestock owners have been hauling water for awhile now. Lack of grass and water will have some producers considering selling their herds. Last week's winter storm was hard on calving cows and young calves.

Farmers are cleaning grain, repairing machinery, and picking rocks. There are a large number of gophers out, and farmers are working on control as best they can. Land is blowing in the Kincaid area where gophers damaged crops last year. Farmers continue to talk of shortages of some inputs and the high cost of purchases.

East central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 5 & 6a)

This past week was cold, windy, and freezing most nights in the east central region. An average of 5 mm of precipitation was recorded, ranging from an average low of 3 mm reported in CD 5a to an average high of 7 mm reported in CD 6a.

No seeding took place last week, leaving just a little seeding started in the Holdfast and Imperial areas. It could be 10 days to two weeks before seeding really gets going. It was suggested that peas will be replacing lentils in some seeding plans.

Reporters indicated that 78% of the crop land and 74% of the hay and pasture land have adequate topsoil moisture – both improvements from last week.

Fifteen per cent of the crop land and 20% of the hay and pasture land are rated as having poor topsoil moisture. In some areas, the soil surface is dry due to freezing and thawing.

The majority of the pastures in the east central region are rated in fair to very poor condition. Cattle are still on full feed in many areas. Livestock water supplies are generally adequate though some localized areas in CDs 5a and 6a report inadequate supplies.

Farmers put down some chemical, applied some ammonia, and picked rocks. Shortages of some inputs continue to be reported, and well as concerns about the high prices.

West central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 6b & 7)

The west central region was generally cool, windy, and wet this past week. An average of 24 mm of precipitation was reported, ranging from an average low of 15 mm reported in CD 6b, to an average high of 30 mm reported in CD 7b.

There has been no seeding in the west central region. The weather delay could mean some changes in seeding plans.

Topsoil moisture conditions have improved in west central regions. Seventy-seven per cent of the crop land and 79% of the hay and pasture land are rated as having adequate topsoil moisture, compared to last week's ratings of 67% and 71% respectively. Eighteen per cent of crop land and 17% of hay and pasture land are rated as having short topsoil moisture.

Some cattle were turned out into fields and pastures. Some input shortages are still reported, and there continue to be concerns with the prices. Farmers are maintaining equipment and hauling grain. This past week was hard on young calves and there were some death losses.

North eastern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 8 & 9a-east)

This past week was cool and windy in the northeast. An average of 8 mm of precipitation was reported, ranging from an average low of 5 mm reported in CD 8a, to an average high of 11 mm in CD 8b.

There was no seeding activity reported. At least one week of warm weather is needed before field work can be done. Farmers would like to see it warmer and drier so they can get an earlier start to field work rather than the late starts that they have had in years past.

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop, hay and pasture land are rated as adequate on over 50% of the land. The balance of the land is rated as having surplus moisture.

Pasture conditions range from good to poor. Livestock water supplies are adequate.

Farmers are soil testing and cleaning grain. Concern was expressed about input shortages and rising prices.

North western Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 9a-west & 9b)

Most of the past week was cool, wet, and windy in the northwest. An average of 34 mm of precipitation was reported, ranging from an average low of 33 mm reported in CD 9aw, to an average high of 34 mm reported in CD 9b.

There has been no seeding activity in the northwest. Seeding has been delayed by at least two weeks, and some seeding intentions may change.

Seventy per cent of the crop land and 76% of the hay and pasture land is rated as having adequate topsoil moisture. Twenty-eight per cent of the crop land and 20% of the hay and pasture land is rated as having surplus topsoil moisture.

Pasture conditions range from good to poor in the northwest. Livestock water supplies are adequate.

Livestock feed supplies are getting short in some areas, as animals continue to be on full feed. The storm caused many calf deaths from trampling, chilling, and the after-effects of scours.

There are some challenges with availability and price of inputs. The gophers haven't been too bothered by the weather as they are out in greater numbers than expected. Control operations have begun.

Weekly Rainfall Summary
(in millimeters)

for the week ending April 26, 2008

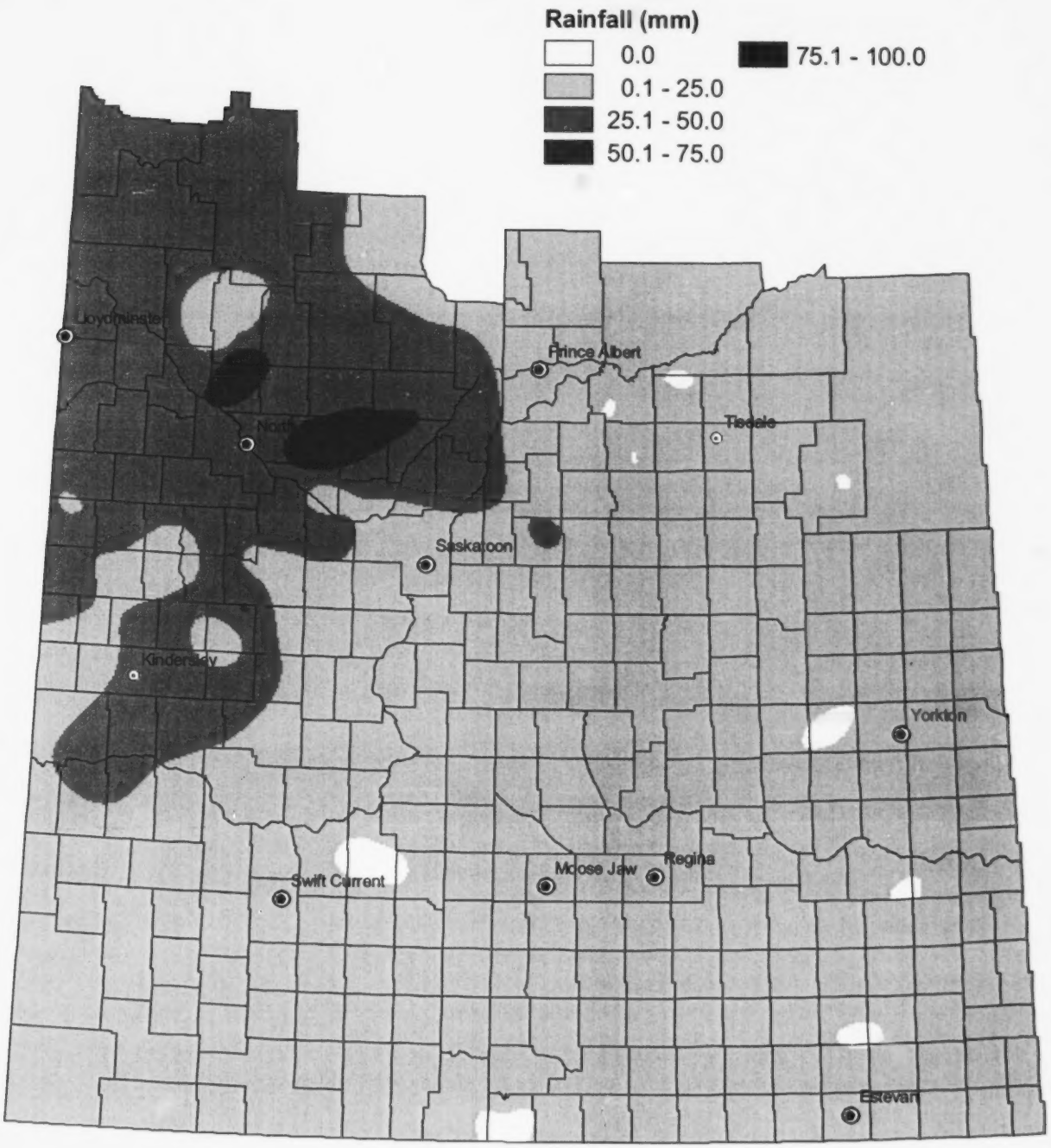
Crop Dist.	Municipality No.	Name	Past Week	Since April 1
1A	1	Argyle	6	6
	2	Mount Pleasant	3	N/A
	3	Enniskillen	3	4
	33 A	Moose Creek	5	6
	34	Browning	1	2
	61	Antler	5	5
	64	Brock	TR	2
	65	Tecumseh	NIL	NIL
1B	91	Maryfield	7	32
	93	Wawken	4	5
	95	Golden West	2	4
	121	Moosomin	6	6
	122	Martin	6	6
	123	Silverwood	2	2
	124	Kingsley	2	4
	125	Chester	2	4
	151 A	Rocanville	2	4
	151 B	Rocanville	5	13
	153	Willowdale	TR	2
	154	Elcapo	TR	1
	155	Wolseley	3	7
2A	36	Cymri	2	13
	66	Griffin	TR	8
	67	Weyburn	2	10
	68	Brokenshell	4	9
	69	Norton	9	18
	96	Fillmore	5	12
	97	Wellington	4	11
2B	126	Montmartre	4	10
	127	Francis	5	13
	129	Bratt's Lake	8	12
	131	Baildon	4	14
	156 A	Indian Head	3	20
	157	South Qu'appelle	TR	TR
	158	Edenwold	3	15
	160	Pense	5	20
	161	Moose Jaw	10	28
	191	Marquis	6	16
3ASE	38 A	Laurier	6	14
	38 B	Laurier	5	11
	39 A	The Gap	10	27
	39 B	The Gap	6	13
3ASW	10	Happy Valley	8	19
	12	Poplar Valley	TR	7
	42	Willow Bunch	7	17
	43 A	Old Post	2	11
	43 B	Old Post	TR	9
	44	Waverley	5	16
	71 A	Excel	2	11
	72	Lake Of The Rivers	2	15
	73 A	Stonehenge	6	20
	73 B	Stonehenge	5	19
3AN	101	Terrell	6	14
	102	Lake Johnston	5	17
	103	Sutton	9	23
	132	Hillsborough	4	17
	134	Shamrock	8	17
	164	Chaplin	TR	2
	193	Eyebrow	3	16
3BS	17 B	Val Marie	NIL	2
	45	Mankota	2	6
	75 A	Pinto Creek	4	9
	75 B	Pinto Creek	5	11
	76 A	Auvergne	4	4
	76 B	Auvergne	6	7
	77	Wise Creek	3	N/A
	78 A	Grassy Creek	1	6
	78 B	Grassy Creek	2	7
	105	Glenbain	4	7
	106	Whiska Creek	5	8
	108	Bone Creek	9	14
3BN	138	Webb	16	28
	166	Excelsior	NIL	NIL
	167	Sask. Landing	7	11
	168	Riverside	4	64
	228 A	Lacadena	4	13
	228 B	Lacadena	7	24
4A	49	White Valley	8	10
	51	Reno	3	8
	79	Arlington	4	9
	109	Carmichael	20	23
	110	Piapot	3	14
	111 A	Maple Creek	16	22
4B	139	Gull Lake	14	14
	141	Big Stick	9	15
	142	Enterprise	11	29
	231	Happyland	36	36
	232	Deer Forks	8	28
5A	183	Fertile Belt	NIL	12
	184	Grayson	3	7
	185	Mcleod	3	6
	186	Abernethy	6	14
	211	Churchbridge	2	5
	213	Saltcoats	2	6
	216 A	Tullymet	3	16
	216 B	Tullymet	15	24
	241	Calder	NIL	2
	243	Wallace	NIL	NIL
	245 B	Garry	NIL	21
	246	Ituna Bon Accord	7	22
	247	Kellross	5	13
	248	Touchwood	3	8
5B	271	Cote	2	4
	276	Foam Lake	4	11
	277	Emerald	5	10
	304	Buchanan	1	7
	307	Elfros	8	14
	308	Big Quill	5	9
	335	Hazel Dell	4	9
	336	Sasman	5	13
	338	Lakeside	NIL	23
	366	Kelvington	3	9
6A	189	Lumsden	13	29
	190 A	Dufferin	4	12
	190 B	Dufferin	3	11
	190 C	Dufferin	3	14
	219 C	Longlaketon	11	22
	220	Mckillop	4	11
	221	Sarnia	8	20
	222	Craik	11	31
	252	Arm River	5	15
	279 A	Mount Hope	12	N/A
	279 B	Mount Hope	3	8
	280	Wreford	7	17
	282	Mccraney	6	16
	309	Prairie Rose	9	27
	312	Morris	11	28
	339	Leroy	7	38
	340 A	Wolverine	13	25
	340 B	Wolverine	5	15
	343	Blucher	2	12
6B	283	Rosedale	6	19
	284	Rudy	9	13
	285	Fertile Valley	5	19
	286	Milden	7	7
	314	Dundurn	4	16
	344	Corman Park	11	21
	345	Vanscoy	11	17
	346	Perdue	8	21
	376 A	Eagle Creek	26	28
	376 B	Eagle Creek	30	35
	403	Rosthern	42	50
7A	259	Snipe Lake	NIL	N/A
	287	St. Andrews	34	49
	292	Milton	6	31
	317 B	Marriott	4	14
	318 A	Mountain View	13	35
	318 B	Mountain View	52	67
	320	Oakdale	36	59
	321	Prairiedale	15	21
7B	347 A	Biggar	26	38
	347 B	Biggar	14	14
	350 A	Mariposa	NIL	32
	350 B	Mariposa	23	32
	351	Progress	20	31
	352	Heart's Hill	45	51
	378 A	Rosemount	18	28
	378 B	Rosemount	33	53
	379	Reford	36	42
	380	Tramping Lake	30	32
	381	Grass Lake	49	55
	382	Eye Hill	28	37
	409	Buffalo	44	46
	410	Round Valley	50	50
8A	395	Porcupine	NIL	1
	397	Barrier Valley	3	14
	398	Pleasantdale	1	13
	428	Star City	9	34
	456	Arborfield	10	12
	457	Connaught	4	8
	458	Willow Creek	TR	25
	486	Moose Range	7	13
	487	Nipawin	7	22
8B	369	St. Peter	3	15
	370	Humboldt	7	20
	371	Bayne	27	33
	372	Grant	20	30
	402	Fish Creek	25	35
	429 A	Flett's Springs	NIL	19
	429 B	Flett's Springs	3	22
	431	St. Louis	14	26
	459	Kinistino	NIL	10
9AW	406	Mayfield	12	30
	436	Douglas	78	82
	463	Duck Lake	37	49
	464	Leask	49	61
	466	Meeting Lake	41	47
	467	Round Hill	35	41
	493	Shellbrook	3	21
	494	Canwood	23	27
	496	Spiritwood	35	43
	555	Big River	18	35
9B	438	Battle River	40	48
	440	Hillsdale	41	64
	442	Manitou Lake	32	40
	498 A	Parkdale	51	63
	498 B	Parkdale	10	65
	499	Mervin	31	49
	501 A	Frenchman Butte	49	63
	501 B	Frenchman Butte	33	38
	501 C	Frenchman Butte	27	49
	502	Britannia	30	50
	561	Loon Lake	38	40
	588 A	Meadow Lake	24	25
	588 B	Meadow Lake	30	32
	588 C	Meadow Lake	44	47
	588 D	Meadow Lake	29	29
	622	Beaver River	34	37

These precipitation amounts represent point locations within each municipality and do not necessarily reflect the whole R.M.

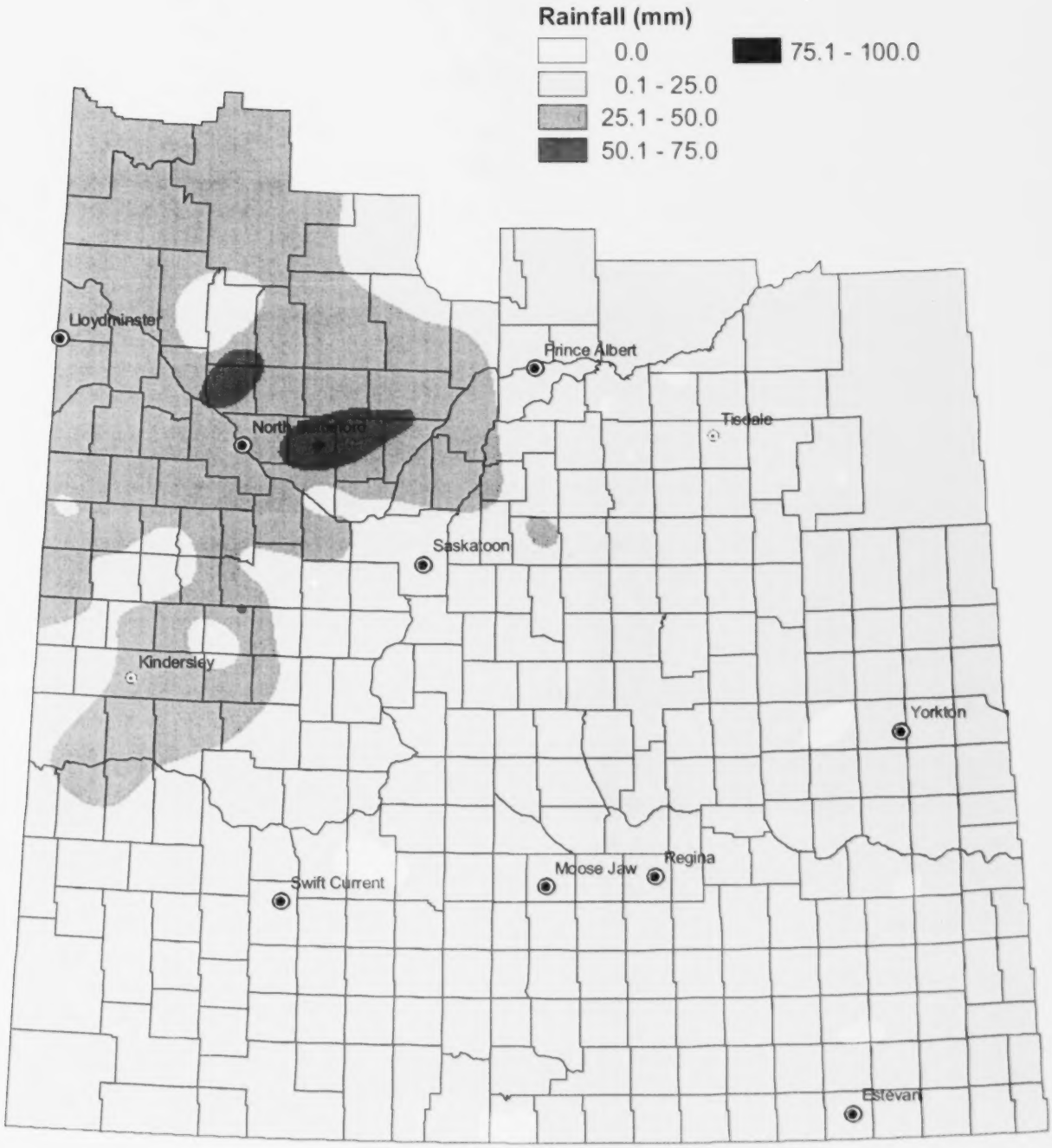
* incomplete

Municipality No: A, B, C, and D - more than one reporter

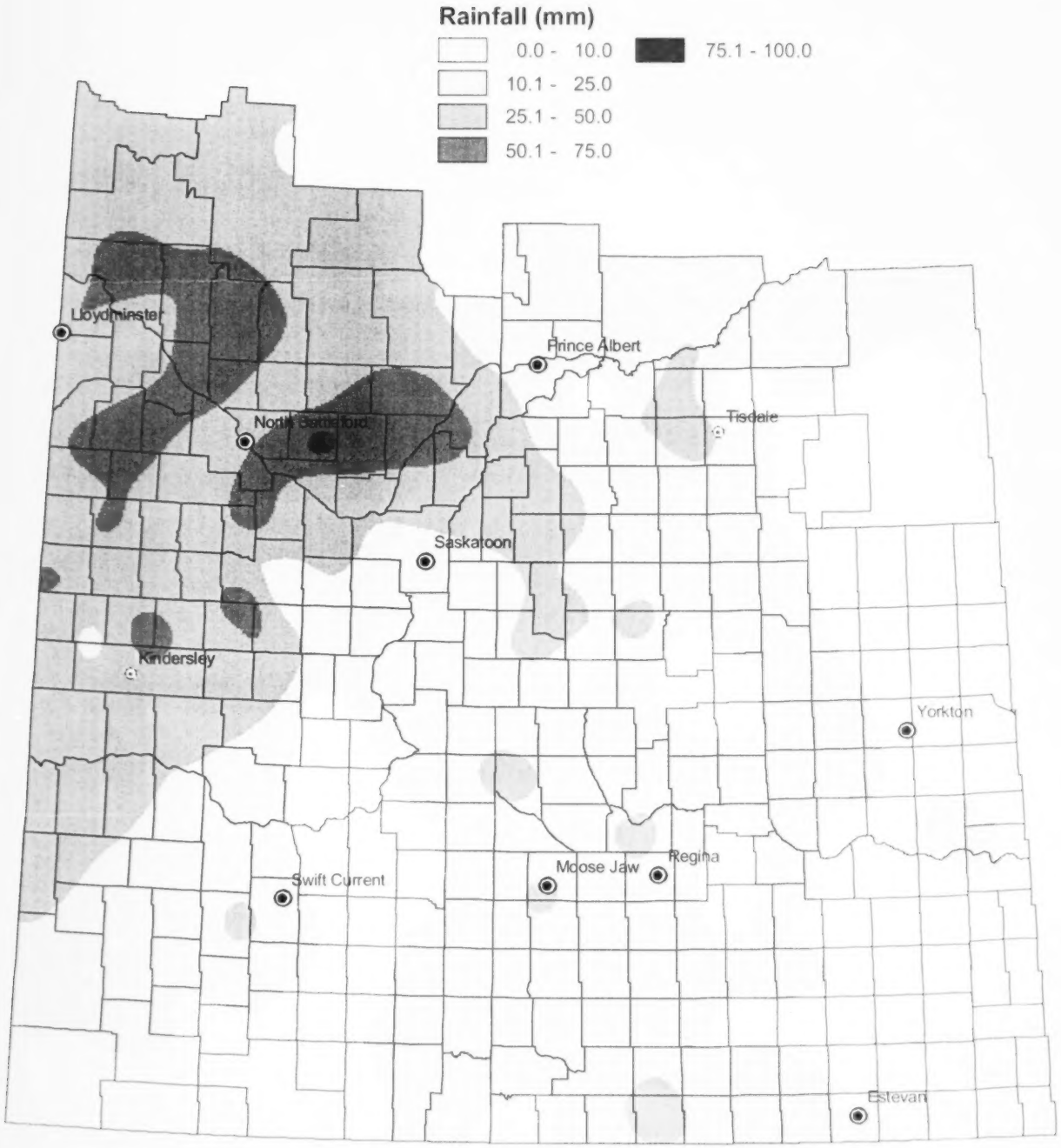
Weekly Rainfall
for the week ending April 26, 2008



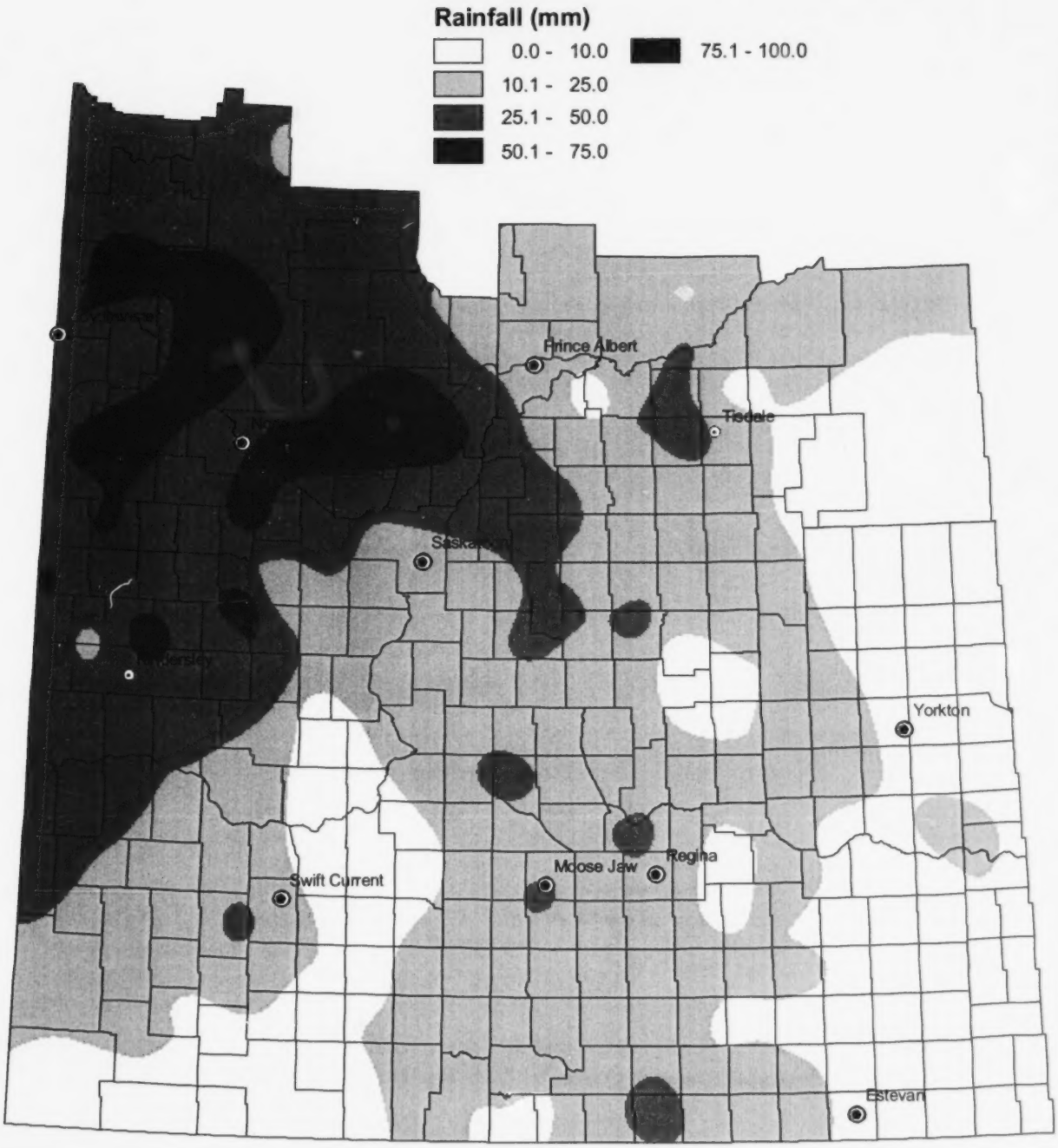
Weekly Rainfall
for the week ending April 26, 2008



Cumulative Rainfall
From: April 1, 2008
To: April 26, 2008



Cumulative Rainfall
From: April 1, 2008
To: April 26, 2008



Crop Districts
and
Rural Municipalities